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Ministry of Forests and Range

NUCHATLAHT SECURES ACCESS TO CROWN TIMBER

VICTORIA – The Nuchatlaht Indian Band has signed a five-year agreement that provides the band with over $330,000 and access to up to 48,000 cubic metres of timber, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"This agreement will create economic opportunities and jobs for the Nuchatlaht," Coleman said. "As government continues with revitalizing our forest industry, First Nations will play a key role."

The forest agreement provides the Nuchatlaht with access to timber in the Strathcona Timber Supply Area. With the revenue provided, the band plans to develop economic opportunities, mainly within the forest industry. Under the Forestry Revitalization Plan, the Province committed to reallocate timber to communities, woodlot operators and First Nations to create new opportunities in forestry.

The Nuchatlaht Indian Band has 165 members on 11 reserves southwest of Zeballos on northwest Vancouver Island. Since September 2002, this government has signed forestry agreements with 104 First Nations providing more than $119 million in revenue and access to approximately 17 million cubic metres of timber.

"The Nuchatlaht have always relied on the forests to provide us with both cultural and economic resources," Chief Walter Michael said. "This agreement will allow us to pursue opportunities in both the local economy and the forest industry."

Since 2001, the Province has been working with First Nations to provide economic growth and opportunities, especially in traditional areas like forestry. Government is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations based on reconciliation, recognition and constructive consultation on social and economic issues.

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Media contact: Max Cleeveley
Communications Director
Ministry of Forests and Range
250 387-8486

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